

From: Isaac Sparrow
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:00pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I would like to voice my concern over the Justice Department's proposed settlement with Microsoft, a found monopoly. I would like to relate my personal experience with Microsoft Licensing.

I work as a Software Engineer for a small company. One afternoon my boss came in with a new computer for me. An Emachine's PC with a DVD drive, CD-R, 1.5 ghz Intel Pentium IV processor and 256 MB of RAM. This computer was to replace my current machine which was obsolete (300 mhz). I was so excited.

The first thing I noticed is the new machine had Microsoft Windows XP pre-installed. Since I use Linux, I wanted to return Windows XP and get the company's money back. I had already called Emachine's to see if I could transfer the license for Windows XP to another machine to use for testing our software, but I was told "you can't do that sir ... I guess we're saving Microsoft.". I was also told that Windows XP added no value to the computer I had anyway. Microsoft must be giving away Windows XP for free?

Next, my co-worker called Microsoft directly, to see if we could get our money back or transfer the license to another computer, and instead of being helped he was immediately transfered to the Anti-Piracy division.

I installed Linux anyway and now I have a copy of Windows XP that I don't use. My company had to pay for it even though we didn't want to use it and will not use it.

The proposed settlement will do nothing to prohibit Microsoft form continuing this licensing behavior and will still allow the monopoly to punish computer manufactures who would give me a choice of operating systems and software.

Thank you for your attention,

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Isaac Sparrow
Staff Engineer

GnuPG Key Fingerprint:
1060 5A07 F6EC B2B3 9AAA 3EA5 7B79 EFE1 6397 4F47
Get my public key at:
<http://www.concentric.net/~issparow>

Secrecy is the beginning of tyranny.

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